

FIFTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT

MECHANICS'
INSTITUTE

SAN FRANCISCO
1909

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
Library and Reading and Chess Room
99 Grove Street, corner of Polk Street
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

The Mechanics'-Mercantile Library was re-established at the above address shortly after the general conflagration of 1906—it now contains over 30,000 volumes and is being rapidly increased.

It is the purpose of the Management to bring the Library to its former efficiency as soon as possible.

The Reading Room list of periodicals embraces the titles of over 500 newspapers, magazines, reviews and journals.

Members may withdraw two books at a time and extra books on payment of five cents each.

Books (except new fiction) may be retained for two weeks and then renewed for two weeks longer.

New fiction may be kept out one week and is not renewable.

The new Mechanics' Institute Building is now in course of erection on the site of the former building, on Post Street east of Kearny Street.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP

Entrance Fee	- - - - -	\$ 1.00
Quarterly Dues (in advance)	- - - - -	1.50
Life Membership	- - - - -	50.00

Library open, 9 a. m. to 9 p. m.

Sundays and Holidays, 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1909

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

1909



MECHANICS' INSTITUTE BUILDING, IN COURSE OF ERECTION ON SITE OF
FORMER BUILDING, SOUTH SIDE OF POST STREET BETWEEN
MONTGOMERY AND KEARNY STREETS.

OFFICERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Year ending February 28, 1909.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG	- - - - -	President
LIVINGSTON JENKS	- - - - -	Vice-President
JAMES G. SPAULDING	- - - - -	Recording Secretary
JAMES H. LYONS	- - - - -	Corresponding Secretary
GEORGE BEANSTON		ROBERT D. COLQUHOUN
TIREY L. FORD		E. P. HEALD
BYRON MAUZY		ROBERT W. NEAL
DR. A. W. SCOTT		JAMES SPIERS
OTTO von GELDERN		LUTHER WAGONER

JOSEPH M. CUMMING - - - - - Secretary

Mechanics'-Mercantile Library

F. B. GRAVES - - - - - Librarian

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4, 1909.

To the Members of the Mechanics' Institute:

The work of your Board of Trustees during the past year has been directed to the rehabilitation of the Library, the preparation for a building on the Post-Street site, and the leasing of the Pavilion Block. Outside of the building up of the Library itself, no evidence of our work appears to the casual observer, but I am pleased to be able to report that great progress has been made in all three important matters.

The report of the Librarian, placed before you this evening, shows a net loss during the year of only eighty members, which seems remarkably small when the location of the Library is considered. We must concede that it is out of the way and it is a surprise to find that in spite of the location our average circulation has been 6,920 volumes per month. This does not include the use of books and papers in the Library Building itself by the members. When it is taken into consideration that our income, except from membership, has almost entirely ceased during the last three years and that we are compelled to draw on our capital for support, I think we may congratulate ourselves upon having a library of over 28,000 volumes, over 4,000 of which we acquired during the last year. The experiment was made this year of demanding a small fee for the lectures offered by the Institute. It has been found that the attendance was as good as ever and instead of costing the Institute nearly \$700, as heretofore, the cost to us has been reduced to about \$150. We hope to be able to continue the courses and maintain their popularity.

We have husbanded the cash on our hands to the best of our ability, spending the money carefully as it was deemed necessary and advisable, and always keeping in mind the necessity of having sufficient money on hand to

tide us over until our properties would again yield us an income. We entered upon this fiscal year with \$42,482.81 cash on hand, which has now been reduced to \$31,931.77, showing that during the year we have used about \$10,500 of our capital, but it must be remembered that about \$7,500 of this deficit is on our shelves in the shape of books. It is the intention of the Board to continue as we have been doing and we think that we have sufficient money on hand to carry us through until our income will more than equal our expenditures.

From the report of the Secretary it will be learned that our collections for dues have slightly exceeded the receipts from that source for the year preceding, which, considering the loss of membership, speaks well for the activity of the office. But I would beg leave to impress upon our members the impossibility of maintaining an institution like ours upon our dues alone. They hardly equal one third of our present necessarily economical expenditures and your Board is making its most earnest effort to make its properties income bearing. Negotiations have been pending for the lease of the Pavilion Block for sometime, and it is to be hoped that they will be brought to a satisfactory conclusion some time this year. It is a large affair and movements are necessarily cautious and slow, but if the negotiations prove successful we will have every reason to congratulate the Institute. The work to which your Board of Trustees has devoted most of its time this year has been the preparation of the plans for the new Library Building. Long before we were sure of being able to finance it, consideration of the building was taken up. I am happy to say that in all its conclusions regarding the building the Board has been positively unanimous. The plans have been in the Library Building for some time and no doubt many members have seen them. The main idea has been to make the Library sufficiently large and of easy access and at the same time we kept in mind the income bearing possibilities of the building on account of its location in the financial district of the city. The ground floor is planned to be divided into stores, the second and third floors are to be devoted to the Library and the six remaining floors are to be made into offices for rental purposes. A local savings bank has offered to loan us the money at

the ruling rate of interest and it has been decided to take the money in installments as the building progresses. Should we succeed in having our own quarters rent free, all expenses of the maintenance of the building and the interest being taken care of by the rents received, we think that we will have done well.

As soon as the building is completed and the Library comes back to its old quarters, an opportunity will be given to us to take our place amongst the active and progressive institutions of the city, and no doubt our membership will again increase, especially as we will be able to take care of it.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Library staff for their earnest work in behalf of the Institute, sometimes under discouraging circumstances, and I would like to say a word of appreciation to those of our members who have staid by the Institute, though practically unable to make use of it. It is their unselfish interest which encourages us in our work and makes the Mechanics' Institute possible.

RUDOLPH J. TAUSSIG, *President*.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 1, 1909.

Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:

Gentlemen—I have the honor to present herewith financial statement of the Mechanics' Institute for the year ending February 28, 1909.

March 1, 1908—Cash on deposit in various banks.....\$42,482.81

RECEIPTS.

Insurance	\$1,172.25
Interest	1,365.30
Rents	2,735.00
Sundry receipts.....	64.00

From Institute members:

Life memberships.....\$	50.00
Entrance fees.....	364.00
Dues	10,599.50
Fines	422.25
Extra books.....	568.40
Books paid for.....	45.70
Lectures (including sales to non- members	498.50
	12,548.35
	17,884.90
	\$60,367.71

EXPENDITURES.

Advertising	\$ 43.60
Books, binding, and periodicals.....	7,438.81
Expense—	
Janitor's supplies, telephone, small repairs, cartage, hardware, towel supply, etc.....	989.24
Fuel	168.50

Furniture—	
Shelving, catalogue cases, etc.....	\$ 312.25
Insurance	1,180.50
Lectures—	
Fees, hall rent, printing.....	656.00
Light	609.82
Old accounts (incurred prior to April 18, 1906)	38.85
Post-street sidewalk.....	100.00
Printing, stationery, and postage.....	936.71
Real Estate—	
Sewer work	132.81
Salaries	9,619.00
Taxes	6,097.85
Water	112.00
	—————\$ 28,435.94
1909—March 1, cash on hand, deposited in various banks. \$31,931.77	

Total insurance carried at the time of the fire,	
April 18, 1906, was	\$129,995.00
Of this there has been collected up to March	
1, 1909.....	\$107,435.23

In addition the Institute has a suit pending	
against the Williamsburg City Insurance	
Company for	\$ 4,000.00
The following are total amounts expended to date for—	
Books, binding and periodicals	\$ 39,322.55
Furniture and shelving	5,377.11
Library Building	6,645.32

Insurance is carried as follows:	
Books	\$ 17,000.00
Furniture	2,000.00
Library Building	4,000.00
	—————\$ 23,000.00

The real estate owned is as follows:

Pavilion Block (bounded by Larkin, Grove, Polk and Hayes streets, vacant except space occupied by Library Building).

Post-street property (former Library site, vacant).

Lots 338 and 339, Precita Valley lands (leased for \$30 a month).

Seven lots in People's Homestead Tract A (vacant).

There is no mortgage on any of this property and the Institute has no debts except for current bills.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH M. CUMMING,
Secretary Mechanics' Institute.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

SAN FRANCISCO, March 4, 1909.

To the President and Board of Trustees, Mechanics' Institute:

Gentlemen: I have the honor to submit for your consideration the fifty-fourth annual report of the Library for the year ending February 28, 1909.

MEMBERSHIP.

Number reported February 29, 1908	2,760
New members, subscription	364
New members, life	1
	3,125
Withdrawn	445
Membership March 1, 1909	2,680
Honorary	9
Life	637
Subscription	2,034

BOOKS.

The accessions of books for the year have been 4,221 volumes, classified as follows:

General works	457
Philosophy	41
Religion	34
Sociology	407
Science	213
Useful arts	873
Fine arts	256
Literature	369
Fiction	1,048
Travel	165
Biography	168
History	190

These were acquired by—

Purchase	2,529
Gift	1,147
Binding	523
Exchange	22
	4,221

Number of volumes reported February 29, 1908	24,179
Accessions, March 1, 1908 to February 28, 1909	4,221
Lost and paid for	31
Lost by removal of members	17
Duplicates returned to U. S. Gov't	9
Worn out and discarded	19 76
Net gain	4,145
Present number in Library...	28,324

BINDING.

During the year 523 volumes were added by binding, these were mostly periodicals; in addition there were 264 volumes of fiction rebound. There are still a large number of volumes of periodicals and newspapers to be bound but the work of collating and supplying missing numbers is of necessity slow. However, more progress will be made in the coming year and our periodical sets will be more accessible to the members than at present.

CIRCULATION.

There were issued for home use 83,043 volumes, an average of 6,920 volumes per month. The following table gives the statistics of circulation by classes:

General works	20
Philosophy	829
Religion	354
Sociology	837
Science	531
Useful Arts	1,974
Fine Arts	1,376
Literature	4,015
German	1,352
Travel	1,943
Biography	1,484
History	1,543
Fiction	64,366
Children's books	1,256
Periodicals	1,163

CATALOGUING.

In addition to cataloguing the current accessions, the catalogue department since the opening of the Library has prepared cards for the following catalogues: An author catalogue of all books added except fiction and children's books, a fiction and juvenile catalogue and an author, title and subject catalogue of the following classes: general works, philosophy, religion, sociology, science, useful arts, travel, biography and history.

The work of the catalogue department has been greatly facilitated by the use of the printed cards from the Library of Congress and the A. L. A. Publishing Board.

The Library of Congress has furnished cards for the following classes of books: Bibliography, philosophy, religion, sociology, science, useful arts, travel and history. From the A. L. A. Publishing Board we have purchased cards for the following sets of books: Smithsonian Institution Reports, 1886-1907. Reed, Modern Eloquence. 15 vols. Warner, Library of the World's Best Literature, 31 vols. Annals American Academy, 1890-1901.

LECTURES.

A course of university extension lectures on "The History of the English in India" by Prof. Henry Morse Stephens, was commenced on September 21, 1908 and will be concluded April 12, 1909. The lectures have been held in Lane Hall and have been well attended. A charge of \$1.00 for season tickets and 25 cents for additional single admissions to members holding them was made. A charge of 50 cents for single admission was also made to members without season tickets and to non-members.

RECEIPTS.

Although the membership is not as large as it was a year ago the amount collected for dues alone is larger than that of last year.

From membership fees	\$ 364 00
Life membership	50 00
Dues	10,599 50
Books paid for	45 70
Fines	422 25
Extra books	568 40
Lecture tickets	406 25

Total \$12,456 10

In conclusion I desire to express my appreciation of the faithfulness of the members of the Library staff and to thank the members of your Board for their hearty co-operation in the up-building of the Library.

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. GRAVES,
Librarian.

GIFTS.

Books Donated, March 1908-Feb., 1909.

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Abrams, Albert	2
Adrianse, H. B.	1
Alameda Public Library	1
Allaben, F.	2
Allyne, Miss	2
American Bankers' Ass'n.	1
Anonymous	321
Beanston, George	5
Bradley, C.	1
Brady, W. J.	1
Burnett, Mrs. W. C.	1
California—State officers	6
California Bankers' Ass'n.	1
Canada—Geological Survey	2
Canadian Society of Civil Engineers	21
Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh	1
Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce	1
Colier, J. M.	1
Cooley, W. W.	3
Croudice, Lenore	2
Dreyfus, E. B.	1
Easton, Mrs. F. E.	1
Goss, J.	1
Graves, F. B.	2
Harvard University	1
Hecht, Mrs.	2
Hewson, F. M.	1
Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire	1
Howard, Mrs. E. S.	1
Iron Age	2
Kellogg, N. B.	1
Leland Stanford, Jr., University	1
Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce	1
Lowenberg, Mrs. I.	1
Massachusetts—Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board	11
Master Car Builders' Ass'n.	1
Mauzy, Byron	3
Meyer, M.	2
Morton, Howard	24
National Rivers and Harbors Congress.....	1
New Jersey—State Library	2
New York—Public Library	107
New York—State Board of Charities	4
New Zealand—Registrar-General	5
Ohio—Geological Survey	1
Phelan, J. D.	1
Philopolis Pub. Co.	1
Pitman, Isaac & Sons	1

GIFTS (Continued).

Donors.	No. of Vols.
Princeton University	1
Railway News Bureau (Chic.)	1
Raymond, G. L.	5
Redd, H. H.	1
Root, Henry	1
San Francisco County Medical Society	26
Shinn, C. H.	12
Simpkin, Marshal (Lond.)	1
Smith, F. A.	1
Society of Engineers	36
Spaulding, J. G.	1
Taffinder, Mrs. A. H.	2
Technical Society of Pacific Coast	10
Teubner (Lpz.)	1
Tillinghast, C. W.	1
Tufts, Helen	1
United States—Government officers	339
Wagoner, L.	1
Western Railway Club. (Chic.)	1

Associations and individuals who have presented reports or pamphlets.

Academy of Natural Sciences of Phila.	Philadelphia
Amherst College	Amherst, Mass.
Armour Institute of Technology	Chicago
Association for International Conciliation	New York
Australia—Patent office	Melbourne
Beanston, George	San Francisco
Boston Port & Seamen's Aid Society	Boston
Boston University	Boston
Bowdoin College	Brunswick, Maine
California Academy of Sciences	San Francisco
California Eclectic Med. College	Los Angeles
California State Board of Trade	San Francisco
Canada—Patent office	Ottawa
Carsson, F. H.	San Francisco
Central Hindu College	Benares
Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co.	Chicago
College of Physicians & Surgeons of S. F.	San Francisco
Colorado State Agricultural College	Fort Collins, Colo.
Commonwealth Club of California	San Francisco
Cooper Medical College	San Francisco
Cornell University Medical College	New York
Davis, Andrew McF.	San Francisco
Eldridge, E. D.	Stockton
General Soc. of Mechanics & Tradesmen	New York
George Washington University	Washington, D. C.
Golden Gate Kindergarten Association	San Francisco
Great Britain—Patent office	London
Green, S. S.	Worcester, Mass.
Hartford Theological Seminary	Hartford, Conn.

Harvard University	Cambridge, Mass.
Hebrew Technical Institute	New York
Hobart College	Geneva, N. Y.
Huntington, Stella	Sacramento
Kentucky School of Medicine & Hospital	Louisville, Ky.
Lake Mohonk Conference	Lake Mohonk
Medical College of Virginia	Richmond, Va.
Nebraska College of Medicine	Lincoln, Neb.
Northwestern University	Evanston, Ill.
Northwestern University	Chicago
Oberlin College	Oberlin, Ohio
Pennsylvania State College	State College, Pa.
People's Legislative Bureau	Sacramento
Princeton University	New Jersey
St. Charles' College	Ellicott City, Md.
St. Xavier College	Cincinnati, Ohio
San Francisco—Board of Supervisors	San Francisco
San Francisco State Normal School	San Francisco
Santa Clara College	Santa Clara, Cal.
Stanford University	Palo Alto, Cal.
Technical Society of Pacific Coast	San Francisco
Tokyo Imperial University	Tokyo, Japan
Trenor, Thos.	Alameda
Trinity School	San Francisco
Tufts College	Boston
University of California	Berkeley
University of Chicago	Chicago
University of Illinois	Urbana, Ill.
University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, Mich.
University of Missouri	Columbia, Mo.
University of Nebraska	Lincoln, Neb.
University of Nevada	Reno, Nevada
University of Oregon	Portland, Ore.
University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia
University of Texas	Austin, Texas
University of Vermont	Burlington, Vt.
University of Wisconsin	Madison, Wis.
Veterans' Home of California	San Francisco
Wesleyan University	Middletown, Conn.
William Smith College	Geneva, N. Y.
Yale University	New Haven, Conn.
Young Men's Christian Ass'n Press	New York

LIBRARIES SENDING REPORTS AND BULLETINS.

Birmingham Free Library	Birmingham, Ala.
Boston Public Library	Boston
Brooklyn Public Library	Brooklyn, N. Y.
Buffalo Public Library	Buffalo, N. Y.
Cal. State Library	Sacramento, Cal.
Carnegie Free Library	Allegheny, Pa.
Carnegie Library of Atlanta	Atlanta, Ga.
Carnegie Library of Nashville	Nashville, Tenn.

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
 Carnegie Public Library
 Chicago Public Library
 City Library Ass'n of Springfield
 Clark Univ. Library
 Cleveland Public Library
 Detroit Public Library
 Enoch Pratt Free Library
 Free Library of Philadelphia
 Free Public Library
 Free Public Library
 Free Public Library
 Free Public Library
 Free Public Library
 Grand Rapids Public Library
 Haverhill Public Library
 Helena Public Library
 John Crerar Library
 Library Association
 Library Company of Philadelphia
 Library of Congress
 Library, University of California
 Los Angeles Public Library
 Mercantile Library of New York
 Minneapolis Public Library
 New York Public Library
 New York State Library
 Newark Free Public Library
 Newton Free Library
 Oakland Free Library
 Omaha Public Library
 Pasadena Public Library
 Peabody Institute
 Philadelphia City Institute
 Pratt Institute Free Library
 Providence Public Library
 Public Library
 Public Library of Cincinnati
 Public Library and Museum
 St. Louis Mercantile Library Ass'n
 St. Louis Public Library
 St. Paul Public Library
 Salem Public Library
 Seattle Public Library
 Sedalia Public Library
 State Library
 Syracuse Public Library
 Toledo Public Library
 Toronto Public Library
 University of Illinois
 Windsor Public Library
 Library Ass'n
 Oxford University Gazette
 Public Library of New South Wales
 Public Library of Victoria

Pittsburgh, Pa.
 Bradford, Pa.
 Chicago
 Springfield, Mass.
 Worcester, Mass.
 Cleveland, Ohio
 Detroit, Mich.
 Baltimore, Md.
 Philadelphia
 Hoboken, N. J.
 Lawrence, Mass.
 Newark, N. J.
 Paterson, N. J.
 Worcester, Mass.
 Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Haverhill, Mass.
 Helena, Montana
 Chicago, Ill.
 Portland, Oregon
 Philadelphia
 Washington, D. C.
 Berkeley
 Los Angeles
 New York
 Minneapolis, Minn.
 New York
 Albany, N. Y.
 Newark, N. J.
 Newton, Mass.
 Oakland
 Omaha, Neb.
 Pasadena, Cal.
 Baltimore, Md.
 Philadelphia
 Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Providence, R. I.
 San Francisco
 Cincinnati
 Dayton, Ohio
 St. Louis, Mo.
 St. Louis, Mo.
 St. Paul
 Salem, Mass.
 Seattle
 Sedalia, Mo.
 Atlanta, Ga.
 Syracuse, N. Y.
 Toledo, Ohio
 Toronto, Canada
 Urbana, Ill.
 Windsor, Canada
 London, England
 London
 Australia
 Australia